

## EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nomination received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

## MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:25 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 5122. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 1295b(h), and the order of the House of December 18, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy: Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York.

## MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 5122. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for military activities of the Department of Defense, to prescribe military personnel strengths for fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 4954. An act to improve maritime and cargo security through enhanced layered defenses, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-6835. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, the report of draft legislation entitled "Good Samaritan Clean Watershed Act" received on April 11, 2006; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-6836. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, the report of proposed legislation to provide protection against claims to the independent petroleum engineer retained to assist in the finalization of equity interests in the Naval Petroleum Reserve Elk Hills Unit; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and

were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-319. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky relative to urging support for the "25 by 25" initiative promoting agricultural-based renewable energy; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## RESOLUTION

Whereas, having an affordable, reliable, and plentiful energy supply is crucial to our economy, as well as our national and international food supply; and

Whereas, current and future risks to U.S. energy security are mounting, while domestic and global energy demands are escalating; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has tremendous renewable energy resources; and

Whereas, the development of renewable energy sources, including wind power, biodiesel, biomass, methane digesters, ethanol, and solar, benefits the environment and will have a direct economic benefit to agricultural landowners and rural communities; and

Whereas, agricultural communities and their partners will experience multiple benefits, including establishing additional markets for agricultural commodities; increasing farm income; creating added-value uses for crops, livestock, and their byproducts; and creating new job opportunities; and

Whereas, American agriculture is well positioned to play an expanded role in the development and implementation of new energy solutions; and

Whereas, America's farms and ranches can become the factories that produce a new generation of fuels to help meet the nation's energy needs; and

Whereas, "25 by 25" is an agriculturally led initiative that envisions America's farms and ranches producing 25 percent of America's energy demand by the year 2025, while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber; and

Whereas, agriculture's role as an energy producer will have a positive effect on national security and trade imbalances, and will serve as a catalyst for rural development in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

Section 1. We, the members of the Kentucky House of Representatives, support and endorse the vision of "25 by 25" whereby agriculture will provide 25 percent of the total energy consumed in the United States by the year 2025, while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber.

Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to send copies of this Resolution to President George W. Bush, each member of the Kentucky delegation to the Congress of the United States, the Clerk of the United States Senate, the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Department of Energy, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.

POM-320. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to taking such actions as are necessary to continue funding and operation of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

## S. CON. RES. NO. 35

Whereas, the unit of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Re-

search Service (ARS) based at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, is carrying out scientific work of critical importance to the state, its economy, and environment; and

Whereas, this research includes work on improvements of agricultural best management practices and drainage systems that will help farmers to improve efficiency of water use and contribute to improving water quality in streams, rivers, and lakes; and

Whereas, a portion of this research is focused on Cabin Teele watershed in Madison Parish, which has been selected as a focus watershed by the United States Department of Agriculture's Conservation Effects Assessment Project and by the Lower Mississippi River Sub-basin Committee on Hypoxia; and

Whereas, this work is also significant on a national level, since this ARS unit has played a leadership role in the formation of the Agricultural Drainage Management Task Force that involves key states and industries in the Midwestern United States; and

Whereas, the work of the Agricultural Drainage Management Task Force is making a critical contribution to reducing nutrient loading to the Mississippi River and its tributaries that fuels the growth of hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico, the spread of which is endangering Louisiana's coastal fisheries; and

Whereas, this ARS unit continues to collaborate with the university's students, faculty, and researchers, as well as agricultural producers and other stakeholder groups on projects of mutual benefit; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved, that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to continue funding and operation of the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and be it further*

*Resolved, that a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives; to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation; and to the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture.*

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. STABENOW):

S. 2799. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on 4-Methoxy-2-methyldiphenylamine; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Mr. COBURN):

S. 2800. A bill to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic in Tulsa, Oklahoma, as the "Ernest Childers Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic"; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. ALLARD (for himself and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 2801. A bill to amend chapters 83 and 84 of title 5, United States Code, to authorize payments to certain trusts under the Social Security Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. STEVENS, and Mrs. HUTCHISON):

S. 2802. A bill to improve American innovation and competitiveness in the global economy; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.